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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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DOS Review Completed

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FM GENERAL HAIG

TO R.T. KENNEDY, THE WHITE HOUSE

1972 OCT 12 PM 12 43

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE VIA BUNKER CHANNEL IMMEDIATELY

TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON
FM HENRY A. KISSINGER

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

BT

THANK YOU FOR LAST NIGHT'S MESSAGE

AS REPORTED IN MY PREVIOUS MESSAGE, THE FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH THE OTHER SIDE WERE BALANCED BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY DISCUSSIONS. WHILE IN THE EARLIER MEETINGS THEY PUT EXTRAORDINARY EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL ISSUES, AT THE LAST MEETING THEY DISPLAYED A FAR GREATER WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MILITARY MATTERS IN SOME DETAIL.

SEVERAL OF OUR MEETINGS WERE LENGTHY AND TIME -CONSUMING DUE TO THEIR PLODDING AND DETAILED PRESENTATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE POLITICAL AREA. ON THE MILITARY SIDE THEY WERE INSISTENT AND UN-YIELDING IN THEIR DEMANDS THAT THE U.S. END ALL SUPPLIES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

ON BALANCE, FROM THE FIRST DAY THROUGH THE FOURTH, THERE WAS DECIDED MOVEMENT IN THEIR POSITION FROM MAJOR EMPHASIS ON SATISFYING POLITICAL DEMANDS TO GREATER AND GREATER EMPHASIS ON PURELY MILITARY CONDITIONS.

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MY JUDGEMENT AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD BE THAT THEY APPEAR READY TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE IN PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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- 1) THE NEED TO REGAIN AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE AND
 - 2) THE NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON THE POLITICAL SIDE
- EWE, OF COURSE, INTEND TO HOLD FIRM IN THE POLITICAL AREA BUT FOR TACTICAL REASONS WE MAY HAVE TO DISCUS SOME OBLIGATIONS IN THIS AREA.

I AM SENDING YOU ATTACHED TO THIS MESSAGE A POLITICAL PLAN TABLED BY THE OTHER SIDE DURING THE MEETINGS. YOU CAN SHOW THIS TO THIEU AS CONFIRMATION OF HANOI'S CURRENT THINKING ON THE POLITICAL ISSUE.

F.Y.I. : IN POSTURING HIM FOR MY VISIT HOPEFULLY YOU CAN STRIKE A BALANCE WHICH ON ONE HAND REASSURES HIM THAT WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO ACCEPT ANY POLITICAL DEMANDS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN HIS OVER THROW AND ON THE OTHER HAND KEEP SUFFICIENT HEAT ON HIM SO THAT HE CANNOT ADOPT THE FRAME OF MIND THAT HE HAS FACED US DOWN AND THAT HE CAN AFFORD TO FEND OFF SUCCESSFULLY WHATEVER SOLUTIONS MAY EMERGE FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE. I RECOGNIZE THIS IS A DIFFICULT TASK BUT SUSPECT THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE THIEU MAY THINK THAT HE ALONE CAN SET THE TERMS FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT WEEK.

WARM REGARDS.

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